

LOOKS EAST

The Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Ipswich East
Edition 23-2020 : 13th October 2020

**Club Zoom Meeting
Tuesday 13th October starting at 6.30pm**

Guest Speaker Karen Purnell: "A Life Scientific"

Duty Rotarians : Stuart Cooper (VoT) Des Cunningham (notes)



October
Bob Dunnett
Stuart Cooper

November
Geoff Ramsdale
Steve Flory



Our Guest Speaker this week is Dr Karen Purnell, the Managing Director of ITOFF (International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd.



Karen is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry with a PhD in Chemical Physics from Bristol. She joined ITOFF as a Technical Adviser in 1994 and, having found the perfect environment in which to

combine her strong principles of science-based decision making, objectivity and service to the maritime community, she moved through the ranks, becoming Managing Director in 2009.

During her career with ITOFF, Karen has attended several major oil spill incidents in many different countries including the SEA EMPRESS, in the UK in 1996, the PRESTIGE in Spain in 2002 and the TASMAN SPIRIT in Pakistan in 2003. She has contributed to several environmental damage assessment processes, including the COSCO BUSAN incident in the USA. Prominent amongst her achievements is the expansion of ITOFF's capability to respond to spills of HNS (Hazardous & Noxious Substances).

In her role as Managing Director her focus is to ensure that ITOFF is recognised as the leading provider of objective technical advice on accidental ship-source pollution through delivery of its five key services. She is also Chairman of ITOFF's Board of Pension Trustees.

Karen is a keen supporter of applied research and development and has spent much of her career prior to joining ITOFF in this field. She worked for a company specialising in developing novel solutions to reduce the volume of radioactively contaminated waste and clean-up of contaminated land and, before this, she worked as a research chemist and analyst.

Read more in advance of her talk by visiting the ITOFF website at www.itopf.org

Member Juliette was very taken with our speaker last fortnight from Suffolk Wildlife Trust who was sharing more ideas to have more wildlife in our gardens.

Juliette sent your editor these paragraphs to share her specific ideas as to how to encourage more wildlife into our gardens.



Sharing some gardening thoughts

During our strict lockdown I learned from a friend that bees are very attracted to blue flowers. This was news to me. Considering the fact that my friend has a degree in botany from Imperial College I think we should take note.



Most of us want to get rid of stinging nettles in our garden unless we have an interest in turning them into tea! A friend has told me that butterflies frequently lay their eggs on stinging nettle leaves. Although I had quite a few bees in my garden this summer I would like to have seen more butterflies.

Let's keep our stinging nettles and see if there are more butterflies...If you want your roses to flourish put cut up banana skins around your rose bush. Just work it into the soil.

This really works well. I have been doing this for years. I got the idea from an almanac for farmers.

Forward Programme of Meetings

- Tuesday 27th Oct 6.30pm Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: Estela Faria - one of our RYLA Candidates from last year.
Duty Rotarians: Janet Dillaway (VoT), Ewan Dodds (notes)
- Tuesday 10th Nov 6.30pm Zoom Club Business Meeting plus Special General Meeting and presentation of recommendations of Grants Committee. Our District Governor, Jonathon King will also attend.
Duty Rotarians: none required
- Tuesday 24th Nov 6.30pm Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: Chris Buxton
Duty Rotarians: Janet Dillaway (VoT), Ewan Dodds (notes)
- Tuesday 8th Dec 6.30pm Zoom Club Meeting - Guest Speakers: Ewan Dodds and Bill Izzard (Bill's talk is called "Can you work round the chicken please? How I went from dishing the dirt to digging the dirt - tabloids to turf")
Duty Rotarians: Tony Dodds (VoT), Jack Earwaker (notes)
- Tuesday 22 Dec 6.30pm Zoom Christmas Meeting - Speaker/Quiz TBA
Duty Rotarians: Nigel Farthing (VoT), Karen Finch (notes)

Speaker Finder Steve Jones would love to hear from you with ideas for future speakers.

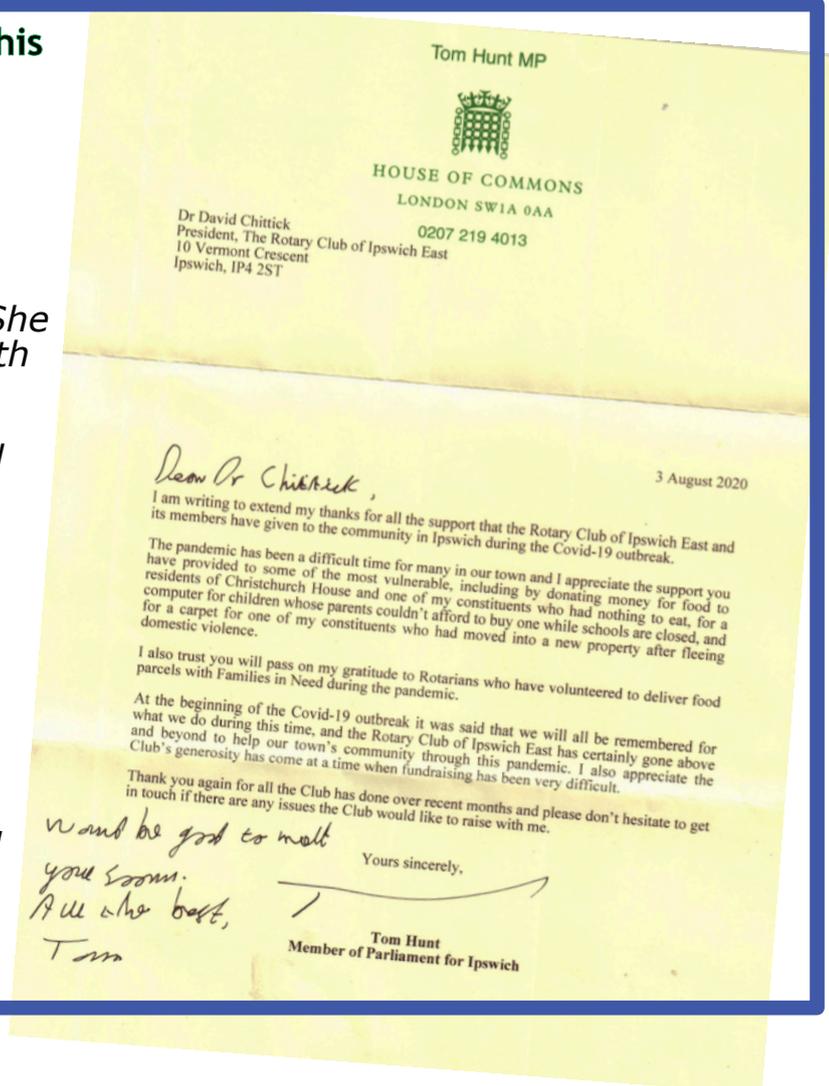
President David sent your editor this letter from our MP Tom Hunt...

David said:

"Today the Grants Committee has agreed to help Tracey, one of his constituents to move into a flat. She was made homeless in July but with the help of Maureen at FIND, Tom Hunt's office managed to get her housed in the Chequers Hotel until the flat became available for her.

Tracey had saved up enough for a cooker and washing machine, but was desperate for help for an under-counter fridge, a sofa and a bed.

The donation of £300 from the Emergency Fund will now enable her to meet the cost of purchasing these goods though The Ipswich Furniture Project."



Ipswich Winter Night Shelter

Steve Jones writes:

On July 7 Julia Hancock talked to us about the work of the Ipswich winter night shelter. She outlined the progress and success that they have had in organising a large team of volunteers from local churches to run a winter night shelter scheme for the homeless through the cold winter months.

In recent years they have been very successful in rehoming most of their guests through close cooperation with the social services and the council.

From October to March up to 12 homeless people aged from 18 to 70 have been made welcome to stay in assorted church halls and churches throughout Ipswich.

They are welcomed by supportive volunteers, offered a hearty meal at a communal table, offered warm clothes and then sleep in camp beds ,dormitory style men are separated from the women by a curtain.

Not all of the churches were able to offer a shower and some of the premises were cold and draughty.

The churches are scattered throughout the town and guests sleep at a different venue each night. This can cause difficulty with some of the less organised guests and some have mobility problems.

In this all new Covid time dormitory style accommodation is totally inappropriate and Ipswich Winter Night Shelter has been fortunate in securing a lease on new premises at 1 Civic Drive.

Initially 10 Ipswich East members volunteered to help paint the new premises in August but the work was postponed because of extra building work needed and we reconvened on the 17th September.

Three Ipswich East Rotary members (David Chittick, Jo Banthorpe and me) and three Wolsey Rotary members gloss painted the skirting boards and door frames of six rooms.

This was done in a covid safe manner with one person in each room though this made it rather solitary.

Those members who weren't able to join in the painting at the night shelter might like to know that there is another opportunity! The repainting of the vast new premises for "Ipswich Furniture Project" illustrated right is described and further illustrated on the next page. Since it's such a large room there was plenty of space for social distancing combined with safe bantering and posing for photo as you will see... (PTO).



Heather Hearne is now our Attendance Officer.

Please update your Club Directory to show the sole method of booking an attendance or making an apology. The method of contact is an email - heatherattendanceofficer@gmail.com

Ipswich Furniture Project

A stalwart crew of Rotary members met up on Saturday 3rd October for a day's painting at the new Ipswich Furniture Project premises.

IFP hopes to open at the end of the month so needed a quick fix painting job to brighten up their shop front.



The new premises is a very large open-plan shop floor in which they will exhibit their recycled furniture and white goods.

Two coats of emulsion were required and we anticipated at least two days of painting was ahead.

The Ipswich East team early shift started work at 9.30am comprising President David Chittick, incoming President Jo Banthorpe, Des Cunningham (a former president) and me (Steve Jones) a simple serf.

We soldiered on till noon when David treated us to lunch at 'Greggs', a meat-free gourmet meal of vegan sausage rolls and doughnuts. After our lunch we were joined by John Goodship, Tony Baker and Martin Westlake.



Much to my surprise we managed a second coat and although not a perfect paint job it certainly looked a huge improvement in such a short time.

Steve Jones



Another exciting episode in the story of a young firefighter...

Tony Baker continues with tales from his early days in the job...

Below Ground

The fire service was heavily involved in rescue long before brigades decided to change their title to Fire and Rescue Services in the 1990s. I joined my first watch at Chatham as a trained fireman aged 18 on 11 August 1965 and the first shout was to a young boy who had managed to get himself trapped and injured under a roundabout in a local playground.

A few days later on Sunday 22nd August, I reported at 6 pm for a night shift. The change of watch parade had just finished when the bells went down. The shout was to Green Lane in Stockberry in the wilds of Kent where it was suspected that a boy had fallen down a deep well.

Two appliances were mobilised from Sittingbourne and my pump from Chatham made up the first attendance of three pumps. On arrival, I saw that the Sittingbourne crews were clustered around the well and there was a lot of looking going on. A short extension ladder was laid across the top of the well with an officer laying prone on the ladder. He had a pair of binoculars and was looking down into the well. We were told that a 14 year old boy called Terry Spreadborough had been with a group of four other boys and that he had gone around to the back of the derelict cottages. There had been a shout and the other lads thought that Terry had fallen in to the well. We were told by villagers that debris from the cottages had been thrown down the well.

The brick-lined well was very deep. The officer with his binoculars thought that he could see the boy right at the bottom. A villager said that the well was over three hundred feet deep when it was used as a source of water. It was 3 feet 6 inches wide at the top and the villager said that it narrowed towards the bottom. We tied rescue lines together to measure the depth. Our best guess was some 325 feet deep. It would be unsafe to rely on rescue lines tied together to lower a fireman to such a depth. Therefore, the Divisional Officer ordered the Cliff Rescue Equipment from Dover.

We set about preparations. The first test was for the presence of carbon dioxide at the bottom of the well. Both carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide tend to accumulate at the bottom of unused wells. Substances decay and give off carbon monoxide which converts to carbon dioxide in the presence of oxygen. Carbon dioxide is heavier than air, so accumulates at the bottom of an unused well.

Carbon dioxide does not support human life. A hurricane lamp was lowered into the well. The officer watched the flame intently with his binoculars. The flame went out at a depth of about one hundred feet: breathing apparatus would be a vital necessity for any rescue. The Divisional Officer looked around for a volunteer. His eyes quickly passed over my head and settled on a seasoned fireman from Sittingbourne.



The Cliff Rescue Equipment consisted of a winch and steel cable mounted on a road trailer. The ancient piece of equipment had been donated as the Brigade had often been called to rescue people from the White Cliffs of Dover, the highest of which were some 350 feet.

Bryan Shoveller pulled up the Harness of the Cliff Rescue Equipment as then sat on the wall of the well. He started up his oxygen breathing apparatus, inserted his mouthpiece pulled down the goggles, fixed the nose clip onto his nostrils and strapped on his helmet. A Neil Robertson rescue stretcher attached to a series of rescue lines was handed to him. Next came a search light complete with electric cable and a line to support its weight. He eased himself over the edge into the well and the race was on. Bryan had one hour before his oxygen ran out. He was on his very much on his own in a very tight and claustrophobic situation. The steel cable was steadily wound out by firemen turning the handles of the winch.

I still struggle to imagine how Bryan completed the task. The boy's body was entangled in debris and trapped behind a steel bar at the bottom of the well in a space about three feet wide. Bryan pulled the body free and found that it was not possible to strap the boy into a rescue stretcher because of the lack of space to manoeuvre. He tied the rescue line around the boy's chest. He signalled to be hauled up and the recovery proceeded. The winch handles were turned by two firemen on each handle but progress seemed endless. I and another fireman hauled the rescue line attached to boy's body and another hauled the line attached to the searchlight. Bryan began to twist around as he was hauled up and the steel cable became entangled with the rescue line and the line supporting the searchlight. The situation was dangerous. We had to ensure that equal tension was maintained on the steel cable and the lines so that an excess weight did not fall onto any one. All had to be hauled in unison. The steel cable began to cut into the brickwork at the top of the wall. Hands quickly grabbed at the bricks to stop any falling into the well.

The safety whistle on Bryan's breathing apparatus set began to sound indicating that he had only five minutes supply of oxygen remaining. The winding of the winch and the pulling on the lines quickened a pace. Finally Bryan was at the top of the well. Hands quickly pulled him out and laid him and the boy's body on the ground. I have never seen a person so physically and mentally exhausted. He looked to be almost in a state of comatose. I am still full of admiration that he completed the task. I untied the rescue line from the boy's body. He was just a lad a few years younger than me. The rescue line had somehow remained around the body. The line had ridden up and had just been held at the bottom of the shoulders with the boy's arms above his head. I am sure that Bryan had supported the weight of the body as they were winched up. Within ten minutes, Bryan had regained his strength and composure and was up on his feet smiling. He was awarded a commendation by the Chief Fire Officer and the BEM with Oak Leaves for Gallantry by the Queen.

Note: The fire service did not have ropes, we had lines, short lines, long lines, rescue lines and extra-long rescue lines. I am the young fireman in the photograph above.



On 21st November 1967 I was a member of a crew that attended an incident when a woman disappeared into a hole in Cooling Road, Strood. The story that we heard on arrival was that Mrs Thompson had been walking along an alleyway at the rear of a row of houses when a hole in the ground had suddenly opened up. She had managed to push her daughter to safety but she had fallen into the hole. As I arrived I could see that two firemen from Strood were being lowered by hand on separate rescue lines into the hole. We hurried forward to give a hand on the lines. An initial assessment had revealed that a cavern over a hundred feet deep had opened up with just a small hole at the top. The cavern widened out to about 25 feet then narrowed to 8 feet at the bottom where there was a flooded and fast running culvert. The firemen that had been lowered in the cavern used a searchlight to search for Mrs Thompson. There were rumbles from within the hole. The sides of the cavern had begun to collapse and debris fell onto the two firemen smashing the searchlight. They called to be hauled up but further heavy falls of debris fell onto the firemen, injuring them and rendering them semi-unconscious. With difficulty, they were pulled out, one with a broken arm, chest injuries and shock and the other with spinal bruising and shock. They were immediately sent to hospital.

It was decided to make a further attempt to locate Mrs Thompson. The Station Officer made the decision that as the situation was deteriorating with further falls of earth and rock from the sides of the cavern, and that the rescue attempt would be hazardous, he would be the next to be lowered into the hole. We lashed ladders together to form a gantry above the hole so that rescue lines would descend directly down without cutting into the sides of the hole. Station Officer Lipscomb was lowered down into the cavern to search at the very bottom. The culvert was fast running and there was no sign of Mrs Thompson. He was pulled out relatively uninjured but muddied and exhausted. Mrs Thompson's body was never recovered. All three men received Chief Fire Officer's Commendations and the two firemen from Strood received Queen's Commendations for bravery with silver oak leaves.

I did attend one more rescue from a 'dene hole'* as a fireman. It occurred one evening in the woods above Chatham. Three teenagers decided to explore a 50 feet deep hole to look for tunnels by climbing down a rope. They were unable to climb back up again. The rope had become wet and covered in slime. The hole opened out into a bell shape and the lads were not able to get any support for their feet and they kept sliding back down. It was a straight forward and uncomplicated rescue using a rescue line. A Leading Fireman was lowered to the bottom and he attached the rescue harness to each of the boys. In turn they were hauled back to the surface. At first we declined to haul the Leading Fireman back to the surface again, then relented as it was fast approaching suppertime. The crew was awarded a commendation by the Chief Fire Officer.

*It's thought that dene holes were dug for the extraction of chalk and maybe flint.

Photographic Memories of a Jolly Club Evening

Club Photographer Richard Porter has been dipping into the archives again and shares these lovely photographs of the 2009 May Ball held at what was then called 'Greshams'.

By the look on some of the faces it was a 'merry' evening (and I count myself in that!)

On this occasion, Monica Pipe was made a Paul Harris Fellow and members of the Inner Wheel Club crowded around for a group photograph.





Rotarian Grandfather Toby and wife Denise Pound are celebrating the birth of their second grandson, Cassius James Purnell, a younger brother to Soren, on Friday 2nd October weighing a healthy 8lbs 8ozs.

Here is Cassius with Soren, their daughter Emily and son-in-law Tom.

Fred Leach remembers...

Former member Fred Leach is an avid follower of this newsletter. He was one of those who originated The Orwell Walk. Fred has sent your editor some memories of an exploratory walk...

As the temperature has dropped over the last few days, I thought I would look for a pair of long socks, and to my surprise I found a pair of long hiking socks that I purchased together with a pair of sturdy walking boots, to be one of Derek Jarman's assistants and look the part, in helping in the early stages of the Orwell Walk. This involved several weeks of sorting out a suitable route along the shores of the river Orwell and establishing a safe route which meant negotiating with certain Land Owners for permission to walk over their land. On one of our sorties whilst walking through a field owned by one of the Directors of Levington Marina. We were confronted by an irate lady in a Land Rover, who shouted out to us "Get off my land!"

Derek Jarman turned to me and said, "You're the biggest Fred, go and sort her out."

No doubt Jeff Ramsdale will remember this. I approached this lady and explained that we had her husband's permission to be here, only to be told again to, "Get off my land!" to which I answered, "Which way would you like us to go, Madam?"

This resulted in her getting back into her vehicle and driving 'off': another situation safely negotiated and just one of the slight problems we encountered.

Derek suggested on one of these sorties that we should enter the New Mills Rotary Clubs' 25 mile walk over Kinder Peak, to see how a successful walk was organised and run.

This was agreed and Derek, one of his close walking friends, Don Edwards and I set off one Sunday to New Mills in Derbyshire.

On reaching our destination the look of the start of the walk was enough to put anybody off. The beginning obstacle was the renowned Jacob's Ladder; a steep hill to say the least.

Derek and his friend set off like two greyhounds, but Don and I set off at a more leisurely pace finally reaching the top. Then on we went over the moors of Kinder Peak down to Hope, then the equally difficult walk back to the start. I'm afraid it was quite an ordeal; we do not have terrain like this in Suffolk.

However, when Don and I finally finished we found that the showers were not working, but after looking at the copper pipe work the joints were luckily all compression, so with the aid of an adjustable spanner we were able to loosen the joints and turn the shower head down, giving us a reasonable shower from all the water left in the pipe work, we restored the shower heads with thanks!!.

Then came the long journey home.

We certainly learnt a lot which certainly helped in Derek finally setting up the requirements of the original Orwell Walk.

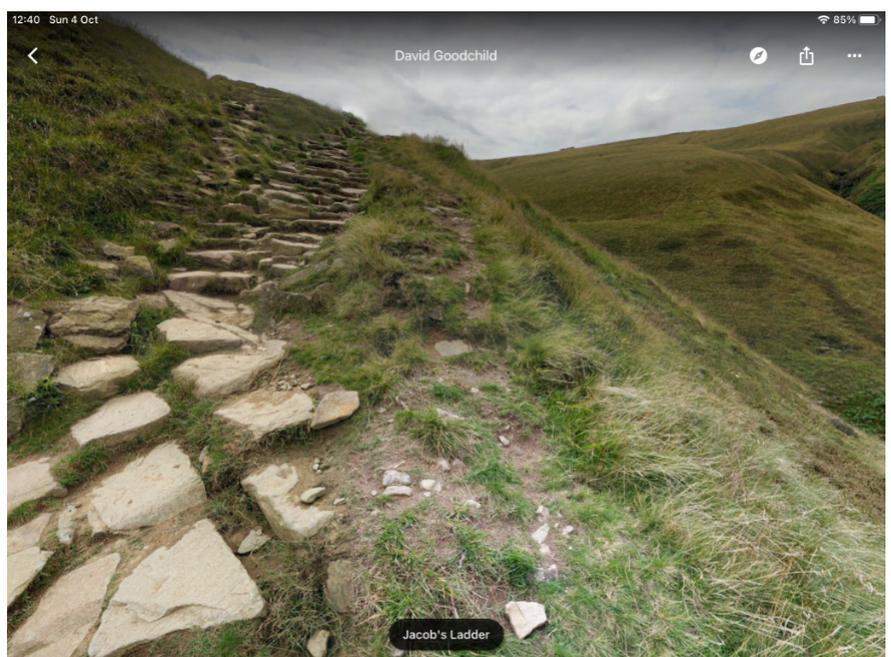
For the Orwell Walk to be still going is a tribute to the Club and particularly to Derek Jarman who instigated it.

No doubt this will bring back a few memories to those members who were also involved.

Hope this is of some interest.

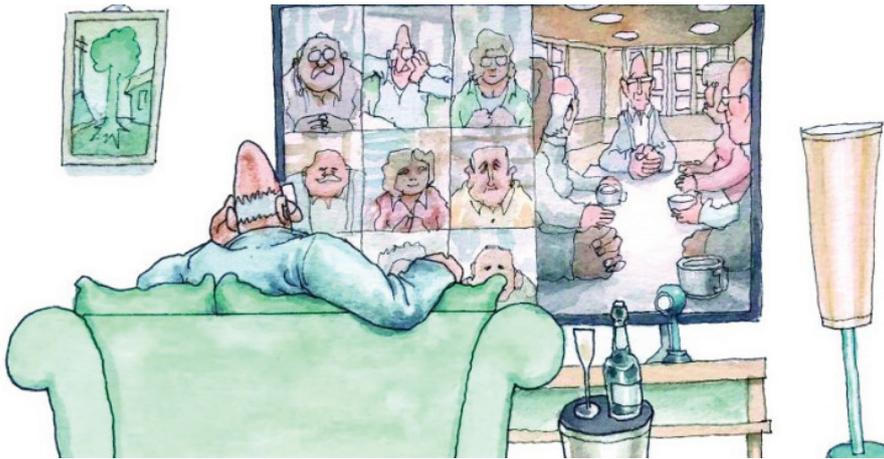
Fred Leach

Right: This is the view of what confronted us at the beginning of our Walk over the Kinder Peaks, (picture taken off the Internet.)



The Hybrid Rotarian

This quirky article came to your editor via Tony Baker.



Bröckedde is located in the heart of Germany - where the Rhine and Danube flow into the beautiful Bröckeddesee. This is where RC Bröckedde meets in the Bröckedder Hof - every Wednesday at 1pm in the Salon Hindenburg.

During the Corona crisis, RC Bröckedde struggled to retain Rotary life. For meetings in the Bröckedder Hof, a maximum of 15 members were allowed to take part so President Pröpke decided to adopt a rather bold model: the hybrid meeting. 15 selected friends gathered in the Salon Hindenburg whilst the remainder of the Club went online.

The "Performers", as they were soon called, dined and discussed in their beloved salon, while the rest followed the meeting from their home office screens, from the living room sofa or even via smartphone from a hot pool!

Soon the viewing figures skyrocketed because President Pröpke's aim was to make the meetings as exciting as possible. To achieve this, he activated two of the club's long-running issues; one was the question of whether friends with no attendance for three years should be excluded or should that be extended to five years? The second was whether entrance age for Rotarians could be lowered to 16-years-old?

In the Salon Hindenburg, things quickly became heated and sparks flew. The Performers eagerly made their mark, especially as President Pröpke had provided professional lighting in the salon, plus an experienced cameraman and a make-up artist who prepared all 15 in a most attractive way.

The online audience was less concerned with content and far more with artistic performance. Friend Dr. Krümelein was soon called "Hamlet" by his fans because of his reflective nature. Treasurer Knödler was praised for his "massive physical presence à la Bud Spencer", while the glamorous Rotarian Frau Schnapphals-Schneckenberger became "Scarlett" from "Gone with the Wind". The performers soon achieved cult status and were even being asked for autographs.

Shortly after, the TV Programme Director from RTL's rather dubious Channel 2 got in touch and wanting to turn the meetings into a weekly docu-soap using the title "The Bitchy Elite". It made President Pröpke feel a bit queasy and he was very relieved when the corona rules were relaxed and he could announce regular meetings for everyone again.

Unfortunately, this met with little response as most of the Rotarians wanted to stay on their sofas. "How do we resolve this?" asked Pröpke of Friend Knödler. "Well we have to make the physical meetings much more attractive, so our fellow members all flock back" came the reply.

No sooner said than done; at the next meeting the camera lingered on a lavish buffet, complete with half lobsters. Belly dancers appeared in the background, accompanied by a flute player and best of all, the costs were passed on to the hybrid Rotarians.

A week later it was back to the good old days. Only the lovely Friend Frau Schnapphals-Schneckenberger was sad: "It's such a pity, not only can I do Scarlett but I'm also pretty good as Mother Beimer from the Lindenstrasse series."